Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for increasing the level of a therapeutic gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject

(a) a first viral vector comprising a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding said therapeutic gene product, wherein said therapeutic gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that reduces ~~uptake of said first viral vector by~~ Kupffer cell[[s]] function,

wherein said agent is a second viral vector ~~that does not comprise said therapeutic nucleic acid~~;

wherein said agent is administered prior to or concurrently with administration of said first viral vector except that if said agent is identical to said first viral vector, then said agent is administered prior to said first viral vector; and

wherein said agent is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of direct administration to the liver, intravenous administration, or intraperitoneal administration.

Claims 2 - 33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method for increasing the level of a therapeutic gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject

(a) a viral vector comprising a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding said therapeutic gene product, wherein said therapeutic gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that reduces ~~uptake of said viral vector by~~ Kupffer cell[[s]] function, wherein said agent is administered less than 1 hour prior to administering said viral vector except that if said agent is identical to said viral vector, then said agent is not administered concurrently with said viral vector; and

wherein said agent is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of direct administration to the liver, intravenous administration, or intraperitoneal administration.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method according to claim 34, wherein said agent is administered less than five minutes prior to administering said viral vector.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method for increasing the level of a therapeutic gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject

(a) a viral vector comprising a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding said therapeutic gene product, wherein said therapeutic gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that reduces ~~uptake of said viral vector by~~ Kupffer cell[[s]] function, wherein said agent is administered concurrently with said viral vector and is not identical to said viral vector; and

wherein said agent is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of direct administration to the liver, intravenous administration, or intraperitoneal administration.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A method for increasing the level of a therapeutic gene product in a subject, the method comprising administering to said subject

(a) a viral vector comprising a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding said therapeutic gene product, wherein said therapeutic gene product is expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter, and

(b) an agent that reduces ~~uptake of said viral vector by~~ Kupffer cell[[s]] function, wherein said agent is a particle sufficient for phagocytosis and has a diameter of about 10 nm to about 1000 nm; ~~and~~

wherein said agent is administered less than 2 days prior to or concurrently with administration of said viral vector; and

wherein said agent is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of direct administration to the liver, intravenous administration, or intraperitoneal administration.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and/or second viral vector is an adenovirus vector.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 34-38, wherein said viral vector is an adenovirus vector.

Claim 40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 1 or 34-38, wherein said subject is a primate.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein said primate is a human.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first viral vector is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, parenteral administration, transdermal administration, topical administration, intraocular administration, intrabronchial administration, intraperitoneal administration, direct injection into cells, tissue, organ or tumor, intravenous administration, subcutaneous administration, and intramuscular administration.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method according to any one of claims 34-37, wherein said viral vector is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, nasal administration, parenteral administration, transdermal administration, intrabronchial administration, intraperitoneal administration, direct injection into cells, tissue, organ or tumor, intravenous administration, ~~subcutaeous~~ subcutaneous administration, and intramuscular administration.

Claim 45 (canceled).

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method according to any one of claims 34-37, wherein said viral vector is a replication-defective viral vector.

Claim 47-51 (canceled).

Claim 52 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising

(a) a viral vector, wherein said vector comprises a therapeutic nucleic acid encoding a therapeutic gene product expressed through operable linkage of said nucleic acid to a promoter,

(b) an agent that reduces ~~uptake of said viral vector by~~ Kupffer cell[[s]] function, wherein said agent is not identical to said viral vector, and

(c) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein said viral vector is provided in a viral particle.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first and/or second viral vector is a replication-defective viral vector.